

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Olney House
2. Planning Area/Site Number 23/98 3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 9
G-20
4. Address 3308 Sandy Spring-Olney Road, Olney
5. Classification Summary
 Category building
 Ownership private
 Public Acquisition NA
 Status occupied
 Accessible yes: restricted
 Present use commercial
 Previous Survey Recording HABS, MNCPPC Federal X State X County X Local
 (Title and date: Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976)
6. Date c. 1820 7. Original Owner Whitson Canby
8. Apparent Condition
 a. good c. original site
 b. altered
9. Description: This is a large rambling old frame house, dated on its chimney--1841. Parts of it supposedly date from 1800 or so, but these have been hidden in the later structure. The main house is 2½ stories in height and 5 bays long with the door occupying the second bay from the right. All the windows are six-over-six sashes. There are two six-over-six dormers on the front roof. There are two chimneys rising from within the walls of this main section. To the right is a lower 2½ story, one bay wide wing. To the left is a one and a half story, two bay wide A-roofed wing, with a chimney at its left end; this was probably the original kitchen. The house is covered with clapboarding which appears of quite recent vintage.
10. Significance: The Olney House and its outbuildings are important as the only survivors at the historic intersection of the Brookeville-Washington Pike and the Sandy Spring-Mechanicsville Road. The village of "Fair Hill", which developed here before 1800, became "Mechanicsville" after artisans and craftsman were attracted to the area. In 1851 the name was officially changed to Olney. At the southeast corner of the intersection, this cottage was built before its sale to Roger Brooke V in 1822. Brooke gave the house to his daughter Sarah and her husband, Dr. Charles Farquhar, Sr. in 1840. It passed down through the Brooke and Farquhar families, long time Quaker residents of the area, throughout the rest of the century. It had a number of 20th century owners and presently is divided into 5 commercial rental units. It is now threatened by major highway and business projects.
- Date researched and researcher: 1/79-John L. Lankford P.A. Brinkman
B.A. Weintraub
Arch. Description
12. Compiler Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled 2/79 14. Designation
Approval
15. Acreage c. 3½ acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 23/9812
Olney H.D.
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC "Olney House", "Little Olney", "Olney"

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 3308 Sandy Spring - Olney Road

CITY, TOWN

Olney

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery 20832

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

In Revocable Trust with Nat'l Bank WashTelephone #: 537-2000

STREET & NUMBER

for Helen Pumphrey Denit, Widow, Presently Infirm

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4731

Folio #: 516

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

HABS, 1968

☒ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M:23-98-2

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a large rambling old frame house, dated on its chimney -- 1841. Parts of it supposedly date from 1800 or so, but these have been hidden in the later structure. The main house is $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories in height and 5 bays long with the door occupying the second bay from the right. All the windows are six-over-six sashes. There are two six-over-six dormers on the front roof. There are two chimneys rising from within the walls of this main section. To the right is a lower $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, one bay wide wing. To the left is a one and a half story, two bay wide A-roofed wing, with a chimney at its left end; this was probably the original kitchen. The house is covered with clapboarding which appears of quite recent vintage.

This is an attractive rambling frame house, noteworthy for its age, size, and condition.

(Photographs - See Attachment Sheet A¹ and A²)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local History

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Olney House and its outbuildings are important as the only survivors at the historic intersection of the Brookeville-Washington Pike and the Sandy Spring-Mechanicsville Road. Before the turn of the 19th century, a village developed at this intersection; taking the name of the nearby early home of Col. Richard Brooke, the community became known as "Fair Hill". Near the southeast corner of this intersection, the small cottage which became Olney House was built in the early decades of the 19th century. Artisans and craftsmen were attracted to "Fair Hill", and the town became known as "Mechanicsville". In 1851 the name was officially changed to "Olney".

Roger Brooke V obtained what is believed to be Olney House property from Whitson Canby in 1822; included in the transaction were the cottage and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.¹ In 1840 Brooke conveyed this land and other properties to his daughter Sarah and her husband, Dr. Charles Farquhar, Sr., who lived there at the time.² After Dr. Farquhar died, Sarah divided her land holdings among her 6 children; Olney House and approximately 8 acres went to daughters Anna, Mary Edith, and Eliza Farquhar.³ Anna and her husband, Charles F. Brooke, lived in the house. Their son, Charles Jr.,⁴ purchased the house in 1898 after it had been sold to Henry C. Sherman. Charles was a physician, and at one time president of the Montgomery County Medical Society. His wife, Cornelia Strain Farquhar, inherited the property.

The next owner was Estelle M. Gilmore who made extensive modifications to the house, after her purchase in 1925.⁵ In 1936 Gordon A. Grant bought the house and 3.26 acres, selling it in 1946 to the Olney Inn, Inc.⁶ In 1963 Helen P. Denit purchased it,⁷ relinquishing control to the present owners in 1978.

At the present time, the building is divided into 5 commercial rental units. It is the sole remainder of this historic intersection, but it is threatened by major highway and business projects.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, W/338.
2. Ibid., BS10/180.
3. Ibid., Deed of Partition EBP3/244.
4. Ibid., TD6/258
5. Ibid., 364/479.
6. Ibid., 644/476-7; 1009/447.
7. Ibid., 3100/624.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attachment Sheet B

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 3½ acres

Presently part of larger holdings in Trust with Nat'l Bank of Washington and managed by R. W. Rogers, Agent.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment Sheet C

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Architectural Description

John L. Lankford; Paul A. Brinkman/Barry A. Weintraub/HABS

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The ~~Historical~~ State Circle
Annapolis, Md. 21401
(301) ~~726-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
Box 87, Stronghold
Dickerson, Md. 20753
(301) 926-4510

"Olney House"

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Montgomery County Assessment Records.

Montgomery County Will Records.

Barnsley, Myrtle, Annals of Sandy Spring, Vol. I through V, Maryland,
1884, 1902, 1909, 1929, 1950.

Martinet & Bond Map of 1865, Map of Montgomery County, Mechanicsville,
Rockville Library

Farquhar, Roger B., Historical Montgomery County, Md., Old Homes
and History, 1952 Edition Monumental Printing Co., P. 244-6.

Boyd, T.H.S., The History of Montgomery County, Md. 1650-1879, 1879,
Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md., Copyright 1968, 1972,
Library of Congress Card #68-31727.

Olney Directory 1978 Longwood Commemorative Edition, by Greater Olney
Civic Association, P. 5-23, Illustration by E. Longley, P. 10.

"Olney
House"

DISTANCES ROUGHLY APPROX. ONLY

NOT TO SCALE

M: 23/98/2

Olney H.D.

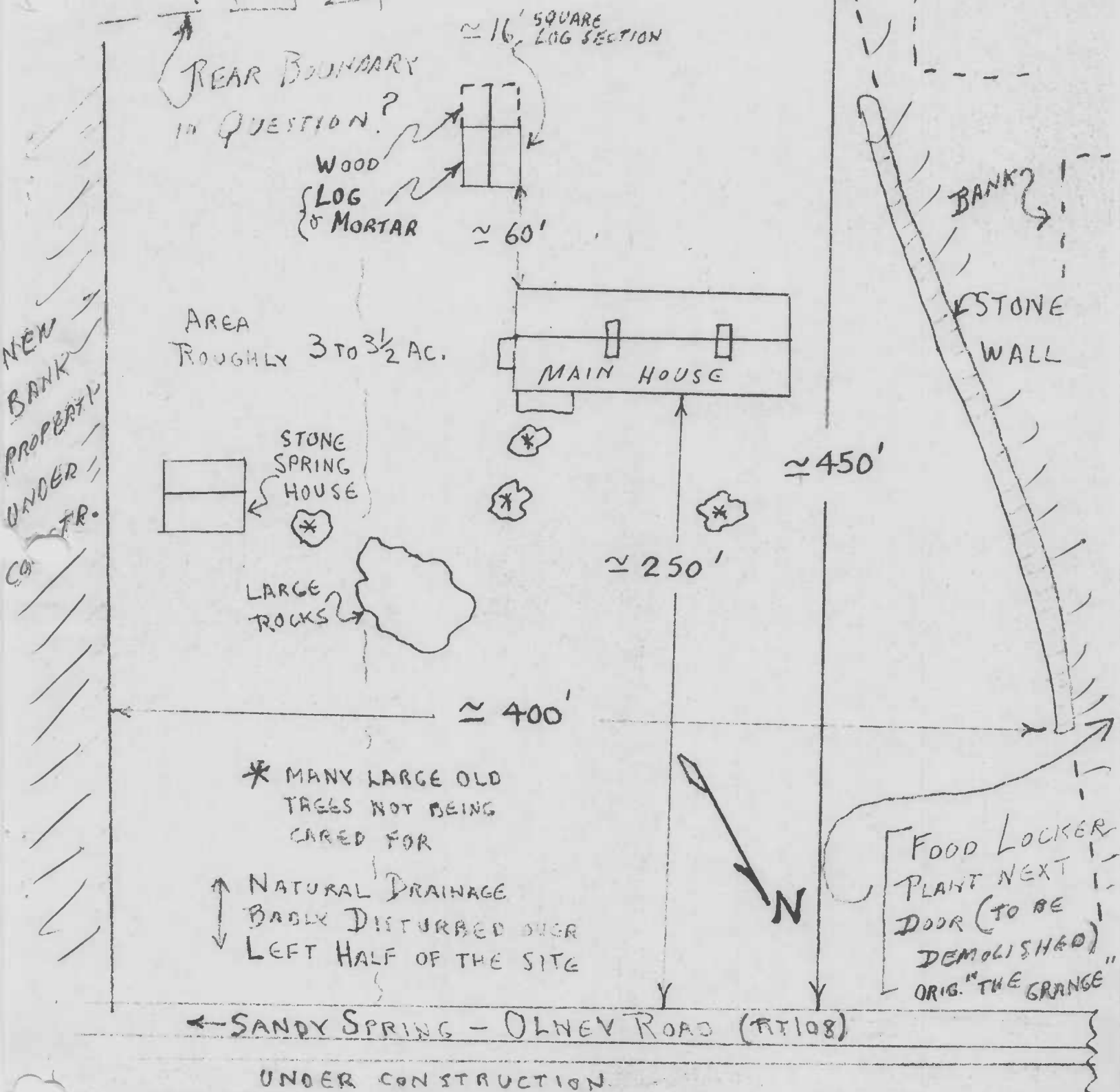
FINNEY,
FROCKS

FIGURE 3 SKETCH OF PRESENT OLNEY HOUSE PLAT

11/19/79

Nº 8.

Mont. Co.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

M: 23-98-2

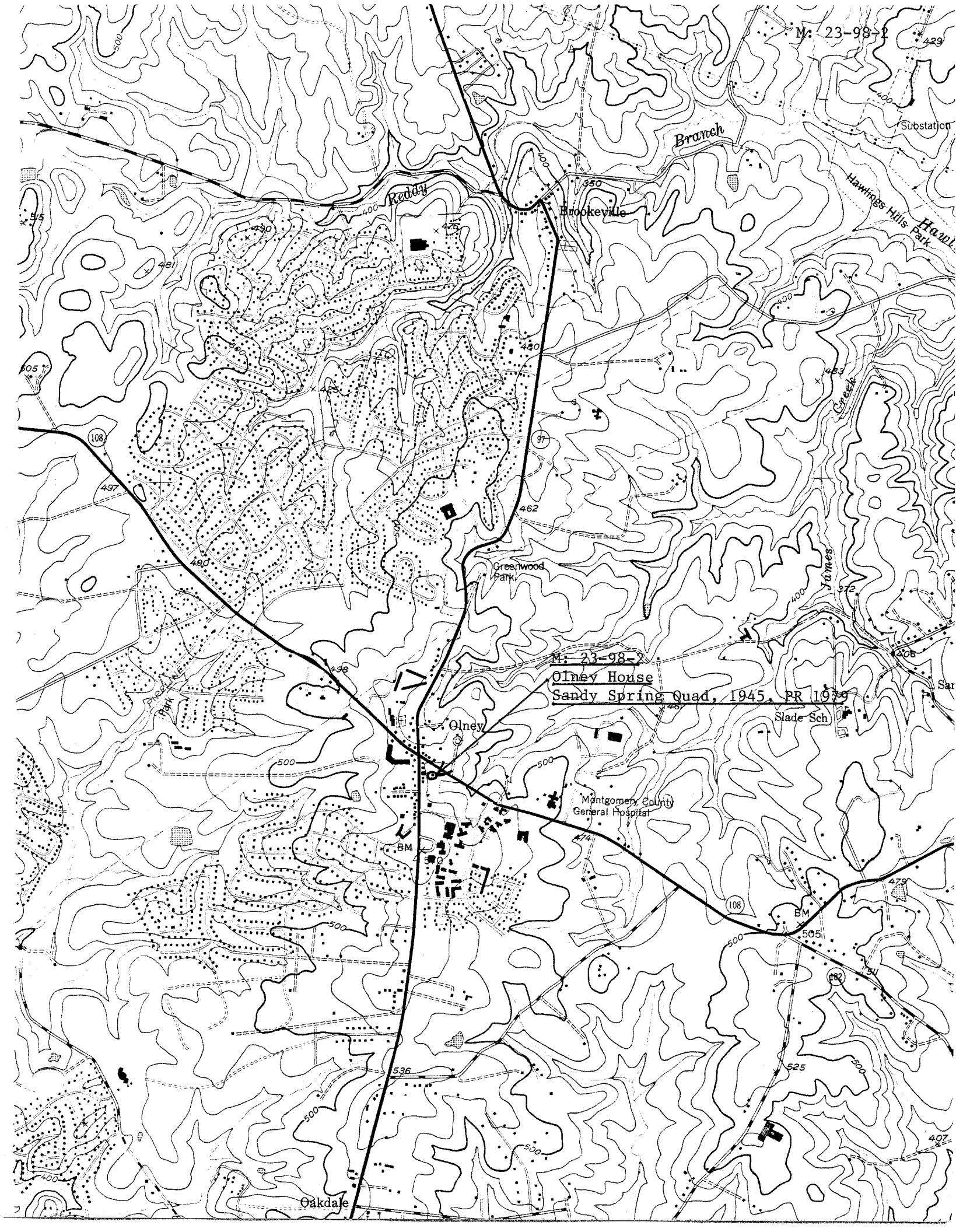
OLNEY P.O.

Scale 600 feet to the Inch

BUSINESS NOTICES

<i>J. D. Barnsley,</i> Dealer in all kinds of Merchandise. Mechanicsville Md.	<i>Williams & Boyer,</i> Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Hardware, Books, Shoes etc. Mechanicsville.	<i>Joseph L. Wagner,</i> Manufacturer and Dealer in Stoves, Tin & Sheet Iron Ware, also Roofing, etc. Mechanicsville.
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Entered according to Act of Congress



M: 23-98-2

429

Substation

Branch

Hawkins Hills Park

Brookeville

Reddy

426

480

462

Greenwood Park

M: 23-98-2

Olney House

Sandy Spring Quad, 1945, PR 1939

Slade Sch

Olney

Montgomery County General Hospital

BM

108

BM

505

525

Oakdale

536

500

407



M:23-98-Z

Olney House

N. Facade

12/1978





M: 23-98-2

Giney House

East End, showing details of
dormer, chimney, & other features

1/1979